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PREPARED BY R.F. Legget. CHECKED BY APPROVED BY

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SUBJECT

Brief Notes on House Building in Great Britain

During Dr. Lea's recent visit he mentioned many aspects of house building in Great Britain of great interest. The following notes record figures which he mentioned which may be of use to us.

In talking to the Chemists at Saskatoon he mentioned that about 200 tons of material were used in the construction of a low-cost house. Normally all this material is handled at least three times. He went on to describe the approach being made to the design of small tower cranes to cut down this waste of labour. We regard this note as of great significance for our own future work.

In general discussion, Dr. Lea told me that 7'6" has now been adopted as the clear height for ceilings and is so indicated in the Model Bylaws used throughout the country. On the other hand, the L.C.C. still retain a ceiling height of 8 feet. This is one of the matters which one day must be thoroughly investigated in relation to the National Building Code.

With regard to non-traditional housing, Dr. Lea told me that only 5% to 10% of housing being built today in England is of the non-traditional type, despite the fabulous amount of money which has been spent by Government and industry in developing new types of house structures. On the other hand, he said that 50% of all the houses being built in Scotland were of the non-traditional type. He attributed this to the shortage of skilled craftsmen in Scotland, and to the fact that previous Scottish housing has been of rather more massive character than in England. These comments are all suggestive to me and open the way to useful studies which we should be undertaking here in Canada.